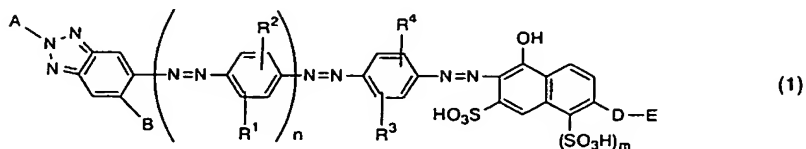


ABSTRACT

The present invention relates to an azo compound represented by the following formula (1):



, wherein A denotes a phenyl group having 1 to 3
 5 substituents such as sulfonic acid group, amino group,
 lower alkyl groups and lower alkoxy groups, or a
 naphthyl group, B denotes hydrogen atom, sulfonic acid
 group, a lower alkyl group, a lower alkoxy group or
 the like, each of R^1 to R^4 independently denotes
 10 hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a lower alkyl group, a
 lower alkoxy group or the like, D denotes -NHCO- ,
 -N=N- or -NH- , E denotes hydrogen atom, a lower alkyl
 group or a phenyl group having 1 to 3 substituents such
 as hydroxyl group and amino group, n denotes 0 or 1,
 15 and m denotes 0 or 1, or a salt thereof, or a copper
 complex compound of either of them, which is used for a
 polarizing plate having excellent polarization
 performance and durability and furthermore little color
 leakage in visible light range.